



The Trade Corridor Bulletin

Improving America's Intermodal Freight and Goods Movement

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Coalition Highlight

Administration and Congress Signal Support for Multimodal, Merit-Based Transportation Investment

In early December, both the Administration and Congress expressed support for investment in multimodal infrastructure through merit-based, objective distribution criteria, adding credibility to policy positions long supported by the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) and its members.

Just days after the President's remarks on the role infrastructure investment will play in job creation, Members of both chambers of Congress approved a conference report which included \$600 million for a new competitive grants program for multimodal surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. The National Infrastructure Investments (NII) program was included as part of the FY 2010 T-HUD Appropriations bill, which was contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act. The bill became law on December 16th.

"We're pleased with the growing recognition, by both Congress and the Administration, that the most effective way to invest in the nation's multimodal infrastructure is through objective, merit-based criteria," stated Mort Downey, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation and Senior Advisor at Parsons Brinckerhoff. "We look forward to working with both Congress and the Administration to make this approach the centerpiece of a multimodal freight infrastructure program in the upcoming surface transportation authorization."

The NII program is a capital investment program, totaling \$600 million, for the Secretary to provide merit-based, discretionary grants for investment in surface transportation infrastructure. Modeled after the TIGER program, the NII program includes broad

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CAGTC Perspective

A Message from the Executive Director

Happy Holidays

From

*The Coalition for America's
Gateways and Trade Corridors*

CAGTC

Coalition for America's
Gateways & Trade Corridors

Mark your calendars and save the date!!

The **Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors** is hosting its 2010 Annual Meeting **February 10th and 11th** in Washington, DC.

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 10th

- 8am – 11:30am Public Session
Hart 902 Hart Senate Office Building
- 12pm – 2 pm Capitol Hill Lunch
B-339 Rayburn House Office Building
- 2pm – 5pm CAGTC Congressional Meetings - ***CAGTC Members Only***
- 5:30pm – 7:30pm CAGTC Reception
National Democratic Club

Thursday, February 11th

- 8am – 11am CAGTC Business Meeting - **CAGTC Members Only***
333 Hall of States

Registration is free, but you must RSVP to agregory@blakey-agnew.com

2010 NRC Conference and Exhibition



January 6-9, 2010
The Desert Springs,
JW Marriott Resort & Spa
Palm Desert, California

Plan to attend the premier railroad construction and maintenance industry event!

The annual National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association Conference will encompass more than 600 attendees, 60 exhibitors and 25,000 square-feet of meeting space. We have a unique program agenda lined up with chief engineers from the major freight railroads and other key speakers covering topics on:

- 2010 Class 1 and Regional Railroad Capital Spending Plans
- Rail Projects of National Significance (CREATE)
- Commuter Rail and Transit Contracting
- California Rail Projects
- Rail Infrastructure Legislation
- Railroad Construction Safety
- High-Speed Rail Developments
- Positive Train Control

Attendee and exhibit registration available at www.nrcma.org



Conference Highlights

- Golf Tournament, Banquet Dinner, Safety Awards, Multiple Networking Receptions
- Seminars on project management, railroads safety regulations, railway engineering, safety training



Coalition News



The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) is pleased to welcome the following **NEW MEMBER**:



Inland Rivers Ports and Terminals, Inc. (IRPT), is the trade association for the nation's inland waterway, port and terminal professionals. IRPT's mission is to provide an opportunity and a platform for inland river port and terminal professionals to improve their businesses through networking and developing key strategic alliances and to inform policy makers on the needs and economic impacts of our industry.

For a full list of CAGTC members, visit www.tradecorridors.org

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project eligibility. Program requirements include equitable geographic distribution of funds; an appropriate balance between rural and urban communities; and investment in a variety of modes. Further, language stipulates both minimum and maximum grant amounts.

Unlike the TIGER program, the NII program provides funds for planning, preparation or design of eligible projects. The NII program does not include the aggressive spending timelines seen in the TIGER program. To that end, project selection for this program is set for no sooner than September 15, 2010.

Inclusion of the NII program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act helped to echo the Administration's statement just days before in support of this type of program. As part of its proposal for a new jobs creation program, a statement issued by the White House specifically calls out the merit-based TIGER grant program, which was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and "support for merit-based infrastructure investment that leverages federal dollars."

Earlier this year, CAGTC unveiled *Freight 21: A National Strategic Freight Mobility Program and Trust Fund (FTF)* and called upon Congress to make it a central part of the next federal-aid surface transportation legislation with dedicated funding and competitive, merit-based project selection criteria. The concept is supported by a General Accounting Office (GAO) report, released earlier this year, encouraging Congress to create a well-defined federal role in program priorities on a regional and national level and select projects competitively based on certain criteria – both tenets of CAGTC's Freight 21 proposal.

Federal News

Federal Update:

Congress passes short term extension of surface transportation program, Considers second stimulus legislation

As the 2009 legislative year drew to a close, Congress passed a flurry of bills that will have a direct impact on the transportation community.

T-HUD Appropriations

In mid-December, the Consolidated Appropriations Act. This bill contained the 2010 Transportation Appropriations language, along with several other programs. The agreed to conference report provides an obligation limit of \$41.107 for the federal-aid highways program. The bill contains an additional \$650 million for highway investment to be apportioned to the states in proportion to their FY 2010 obligation limit; as well as an additional \$240 million for "Surface Transportation Priorities," which are specific earmarked projects. Most notable is that the bill contains \$600 billion in funding for the National Infrastructure Investments Program (see Highlight, page 1, for more details). The conference report contains \$2.5 billion for HSR. No funds were provided for a National Infrastructure Bank. The Consolidated Appropriations Act also included language extending the surface transportation program, at the 2009 rescinded level, through February 28th, 2010.

Full language is available here: http://rules.house.gov/bills_details.aspx?NewsID=4520.

Possible "Jobs Bill"

Towards the end of 2009, Congress and the Administration began discussing the possibility of a "jobs bill" to infuse additional funds into the economy and stimulate job creation. After several proposals failed to get off the ground, the House finally agreed, by a very narrow margin, to language for the jobs bill, or the second stimulus. The \$154 billion measure allocates \$36.7 billion in additional funds for highways, transit and Amtrak (see table at right for breakdown of funds). The legislation uses \$75 billion in the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) savings to pay for the infrastructure and job preservation investments.

The highways portion of this bill is nearly identical to the original ARRA language, with only a few changes. The expanded project eligibility remains in tact and the funds are to go out using the same formula allocations as ARRA. **However, note that this bill requires that funds be under contract within 90 days, or the Secretary is permitted to call back and redistribute those funds.** CAGTC encourages State DOTs to consider this provision when commenting on the bill.

<u>Surface Transportation Provisions:</u>	
\$27.5 billion	Highways
\$8.4 billion	Transit
\$800 million	Amtrak
\$500 million	Airports
\$100 million	Maritime Administration
\$2 billion	Clean Water
\$715 million	Corps of Engineers
\$100 million	Bureau of Reclamation (clean water for rural areas)

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In addition to the stimulus measures, however, were a few other interesting measures that will likely cause some debate on the Senate side. First, the bill extends the surface transportation authorization through Sept. 30, 2010. It also credits the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) with \$19.5 billion in foregone interest payments and allows the HTF to accrue interest in the future. Finally, there is a provision in the language that would make 2010 PNRS funds subject to competitive award.

CAGTC has been urging Congress to consider appropriating an additional \$5 billion for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program, enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Funding the TIGER Program is an excellent opportunity for fast, effective, and meaningful infrastructure investment. If a new jobs bill were to provide additional funding to the TIGER program, DOT would not need to promulgate new rules and regulations. The required rules and regulations for this program have already been created, reviewed and approved. DOT could simply select more projects than they would have otherwise been able to, and also fund the most attractive projects at higher levels than otherwise possible.

The jobs bill was sent to the Senate, but its future remains unclear. The Senate adjourned for the year without taking up the jobs bill and the issue is not currently part of the Senate floor agenda for January 2010. Instead, the Senate is scheduled to take up the issue of the debt ceiling when it returns in January. This debate could have a direct impact on the House passed jobs bill, as the issue of unspent TARP funds will be taken into consideration and could impact Congress's ability to pay for a jobs bill using the TARP offset.

Upcoming Events

January 6 – 9: 2010 NRC Conference & Exhibition, Palm Desert, CA



February 10 – 11: CAGTC 2010 Annual All Members Meeting, Washington, DC



February 21 – 23: NARC Conference of Regions, Washington, DC



February 28: AASHTO Washington Legislative Briefing 2010, Washington, DC



World Shipping Council Launces New Website

On December 9th, the World Shipping Council issued a statement announcing the relaunch of their website.

Check it out at: <http://www.worldshipping.org/>

Why Join CAGTC?

Shape Policy

CAGTC Members have the opportunity to help shape policy and legislation with an organization that is known for getting results on the Hill. Membership gives you a seat at the table as our positions are vetted, debated, finalized and carried to the halls of Congress, where we then pull out the votes. All members are invited and encouraged to participate in our various policy and planning committees, which meet by phone, email and, occasionally, in person.

Up To Date Information

CAGTC strives to keep our members well informed and keyed in on important national freight developments. Because our work focuses solely on goods movement issues, we are able to disseminate concise, lightening-quick updates. Our members often tell us that CAGTC delivers information quicker than any of their other DC connections!

Access

CAGTC holds one annual, in-person meeting every winter, with impressive member turn out. In addition to our annual meeting, we hold smaller member events on a regular basis, such as our Congressional Goods Movement Briefing each spring and our Trade Corridor Summit in 2007. We also meet regularly with Congressional Members and staff and with the Administration. All of these meetings are free and open to members. Given that this is authorization time, we expect our calendar for Hill visits to book up quickly - in the run up to SAFETEA-LU, CAGTC held over 500 meetings with policy makers!

Member Promotion

In all our endeavors, the Coalition highlights its member organizations as examples of *good* projects and *how* the process should work. We do this in our regular meetings on the Hill, at conferences and during presentations and in our newsletter, which goes out every other month. Members have a spotlight for recent achievements, a sounding board of experts for advice, as well as an opportunity to network with likeminded organizations.

To learn more contact:

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